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**NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1950**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**

RESOLUTION

*New Delhi the 27th March 1950*

**No. 19-P(123)/49.**—In their Resolution, Ministry of Transport No. 19-P-(53)/47, dated the 17th February, 1948, the Government of India constituted an expert committee known as the West Coast Major Port Development Committee to carry out the following two investigations:—

- I. (a) Whether a deep sea port on the stretch of coast covering Kathiawar and Cutch for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required;
- (b) if so, where it should be sited, having regard to construction and maintenance costs, allied transport developments, possibilities of developing existing ports and the needs of the entire area to be served.
- II. (a) Whether a deep sea port between Mormugao and Cochin for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required;
- (b) if so, where it should be sited, having regard to economy of construction and maintenance of the port and allied transport developments required and having regard to the needs of the entire area; also what measures are necessary for establishing it;
- (c) what improvements are necessary in communications to the existing ports; also what other measures should be taken for the development or provision of additional facilities in these ports as may be found necessary or desirable.

The members of the Committee were as follows:—

Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai—*Chairman.*

The General Manager, B.B.&C.I. Railway, Bombay for the former investigation, and the General Manager, M. & S.M. Railway, Madras for the latter.

Shri S. N. Haji, Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., Bombay.  
Shri K. Mitter, Docks Manager, Calcutta Port Commissioners, Calcutta.

Mr. J. B. Murray, Chief Engineer, Calcutta Port Commissioners, Calcutta.

Commander D. Shankar, Director of Naval Engineering, Naval Headquarters (1) for the former and Capt. G. P. Ranson, R.N., for the latter.

Shri V. V. Bhide, Secretary to the General Manager, B.B.&C.I. Railway, Bombay—Secretary for the former and Shri M. Ramabrahmam, Executive Engineer, Port Department, Madras, for the latter.

The investigation into the possibilities of siting a major port on the coast covered by Kathiawar and Cutch was taken up first and the Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Committee that a major port should be sited at Kandla—*vide* Resolution No. 19-P(118)/48, dated the 7th September 1948. The second investigation having been completed, the Committee have submitted a further report which is now published. The report is not unanimous as one member, Mr. W. G. W. Reid, General Manager, M&S.M. Railway has appended a dissenting note. The Government of India have ~~carefully considered the recommendations~~ made in the report and wish to make the following observations:

- (1) Having regard to the inadequacies in the report in respect of Malpe and the prevailing financial stringency, the Government of India consider that the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report on the need for, and the siting of a major port should be deferred for the present and the question of undertaking a more thorough examination of the economic and engineering aspects of the project considered, when the financial position improved.
- (2) In the meantime, the question of improving the minor port of Mangalore should be given consideration by the Government of Madras and to this end, model experiments should be conducted at the Central Water-power Irrigation and Navigation Research Station, Poona, with a view to establishing the feasibility or otherwise of maintaining a dredged channel.
- (3) The Government of India commend to the Governments of Bombay and Madras, the recommendations of the Committee contained respectively in sub-paras. (4) and (6) of para. 28 of the report regarding improvements to the North Kanara ports and the postponing of the works contemplated at Malpe.
- (4) The Government of India also commend to all the maritime State Governments the recommendation contained in sub-paragraph 9 of paragraph 28 regarding the maintenance of statistics at all minor ports subject to further uniformity in the list of principal commodities and the unit of measurement, and subject to the maintenance of full and up-to-date statistics of passenger traffic also on a uniform basis.

- (5) The Government of India consider that the recommendations in sub-paragraphs 1—3 of paragraph 29 regarding coastal shipping should be examined in due course after a review of the coastal trade trends on the West Coast and in the light of their policy in regard to central assistance, if any, in the administration and development of minor ports.
- (6) The Government of India agree that a National Harbour Board should be constituted, advisory in its functions and composed of representatives of the Ministries of the Government of India concerned, maritime State Governments and Major Port Authorities including the Development Commissioner, Kandla with the Hon'ble Minister for Transport as Chairman to advise on matters of general policy relating to port management and development and on important problems of a general nature affecting industry, commerce, shipping, railways etc. so as to ensure integrated consideration of all important port matters. Action to this end is in hand.

The Government of India desire to express their thanks to the Chairman and members of the West Coast Major Port Development Committee for their useful report.

S. CHAKRAVARTI, Jt. Secy.

